

A

REVIEW OF THE STATE OF THE BRITISH NATION.

Tuesday, July 22. 1712.

A Worthy Author who is setting up to make himself Popular, by the Fashionable Vices of the Times, *viz.* affirming without Proof, and denying Demonstration, has, in his Extraordinary Modesty, done me this Favour in his last Friday's Paper, to allow me to be a *Whig* one day in two— This is a mighty Step in my behalf, and doubtless he expects to have it acknowledg'd, indeed, as Times go with me, I must own it a great Matter, if they will do me any Justice at all.

If I talk for the Protestant Interest, and the Protestant Succession, and against the Jacobites, and for keeping the Peace with the Dutch in their own Way, then I am a *Whig*, but tho' I talk for the same Things as Zealously, as Sinoerely, as Rationally, and perhaps a little too Unan-

swearably, yet if it is not in the Peculiar Dialect of the Day, if it be not with a general Turn upon the Court, upon the Ministry, and upon the Queen, against the Peice, and for giving all to the Emperor, then I am a *Tory*.

Now I have declar'd my Opinion, with the Grounds and Reasons of it, I own, that ever since they have absurdly made the King of Spain Emperor, I think the true End of the War is destroy'd, and Fighting any longer upon that Foot, Unjust and Ridiculous; and that therefore I am for a Peace, and to make the best Terms we can— They Rail at this, and say it is Writing for the Ministry, and yet they know I wrote the same Thing five Year ago, in the Time of the Old Ministry— But this the *Whigs* Justice will admit them to take no notice of.

Again,

Again, I have declar'd, I think it every Subjects Duty to submit to the Legal Government, as Established over us in every Thing we can, and to go with them as far as we can, and by this Rule I act with all the Impartiality I can ; but *these People* aiming at *Persons*, not at Things, study not what they can submit to, but what they can find fault with, and declare against the Queen's making Alterations in her Servants, which I think, however I may be sorry for the Change, yet I have nothing to do with, on these Foundations ; I am oblig'd to differ with my old Friends, and when the House of Hannover succeeds, if I live so long, I shall do the same : Nay, should the Pretender, *which God forbid*, come hither, my Case is plain, I'll fight him, I'll oppose him openly and fairly, as long as I can ; by the Way, I'll be his fair, open, and honourable Enemy ; I will be a Secret Treacherous Enemy to no Man, no, not to the Devil, if he were in Humane Shape ; I'll take no Man's Pay and then betray him, List in his Troop and wear his Cloth, and march with him to the Place of Rendezvous, and then go over to his Euemy ; I never thought the Revolution one jot the better for any that did so ; but openly and fairly, while there is any Room left to oppose him, I'll do it with all my might, *and as King William said*, I'll endeavour to die in the last Ditch ; but if it is my Fate to see my Country fall into his Hands, and there is no more Room for Resistance, I'll submit, and then I'll go

on with him, as far as he goes on with the Constitution Principle, and maintains the Laws, *and no farther* ; this I think my Duty under all Governments that I shall live with ; thus I did before the Revolution, and I thank God I can say I went no farther ; in complying with which, many that call themselves good *Whigs* now, cannot say : *This I did in the late Ministry*, and opposed the Change as much, and as long as I could, but since it is wrought, and I cannot help it, the Queen is the same Sovereign, the Law the same Rule, as long as, and as far as the Government goes on by the Rule of Law, and on the Foot of the Constitution, so far, and so long I think it my Duty to submit and join, and no farther, and if the Queen puts out this Ministry, and puts in another, I'll do the same, let them be who they will, so that the Ministry are not under one Farthing Obligation to me, for any Thing I write, or say, or do, and if they give me any Thing for Writing the Review, as these Men falsely alledge, they throw the Money away : If it is in their Favour, it is by natural Consequence of Principle, not by Design ; either for this or against that, it is my Debt and my Duty, and they owe me nothing for it ; for if it was against them I should do the same.

I know I write this to a Sett of Men deaf as the Adder to the Voice of the Charmer, that will, under the present Possession of Parties, hear no Reason, but on their own side

side; if, as before, I would speak their Way, I am then a Whig, but if I look in the least maner towards their Errors, if I touch in the least their Passions and Polly, if I chance to tell them they can mistake; if I say they are too hot, and carry Things too far; if I say that while they talk loudest against a War with the Dutch, they furiously drive at such Measures, as will, by an Invinclible Necessity, bring it on us; if I speak but the least Word for Peace, tho' I mention not the Terms, or against advancing a Cursed Race of Bloody Tyrants to a height of Power, dangerous to the Protestant Churches, then I am a Tory, a Renegado, a Mercenary, and the Devil.

Such be my Lot while I live, viz. To speak home and Impartially, to tell both Sides their Mistake, though at the Purchase of their mutual Curse; my Lord Rochester tells us this is the sure Fate of a plain Dealer.

If mid known Chars you'll play upon the square
You'll be undone —

Not can mask truth your Reputation save,
The Knaves will all agree to call you Knaves.

However, since, as I say above, the said Author has allow'd me to be one Day in two, a Whig, and as I have more to say about the Danger of the Precedent, I hope to keep in this Gentleman's good Graces for 2 or 3 Days longer; but as I shall certaintly tell both Sides their own, when they come in my Way, I can tell so a tittle when the Buffoon will again take Place of the Gentleman.

Well, let that go — But let us return to where we broke off, pray; What is now the Lye of the Week? The Burning the poor People in the Church by the Duke of Ormond, has taken its Tour about Town, and is gone down in the Country, where, no doubt, but it will answer the End; a few People, a few, compar'd to the Multitude, that, right or wrong, resolve to believe it, because they like it, may be Convinc'd of its being a Lye, but it is not in the Duke's Power to remove the Slander, no, not his hanging Eleven Men for the Fact will not do it, I warrant it passes for Truth in many a Chimney Corner 20 Year hence.

But we have another Lye of the Week, also on the same Side, which has taken up two or three Days this Week, and this is, that the Dutch have sent Word to her Majestie, that they agree to the Peace, and then they will not carry on the War any longer; That they will do so at least, I cannot doubt, and therefore I will be far from endeavouring to make the News hard to believe when it comes; but pray, Messieurs of that Side, do not tell it us so often before it is true, that we shall not venture to believe it when it is; I make no doubt, but the Dutch as I always said, are too wise to carry on this War, whether Britain will or no.

But we have still another Lye of the Week to talk of indeed, it is yet but an Embryo of a Lye — An Egg laid — to hatch a Lye for some other Week to come; and this is, That Mareschal Villars has orders to fight the Confederate Army, and that he is March'd in order to Attack them: I cannot think the Men of Sense on that Side, will ever care to bring this LYB into form, because all Men that know the Circumstances of the French, know they have too much to Risque upon the Event of another Battle, to make that Story Rational.

How far the late Action may hearten them, and how far they may surprize again any Party or any lesser Body of the Army of the Confederates, I will not say, for they are a vigilant People, but as to a pitch'd Battle, as to fighting another Ramillies or Blenheim, I do not see it is their Business to do it, any more than it is probable they will run the Risque, and this therefore I rank among the Lyes of the Week, which may have a farther Improvement hereafter.

One more Weekly Lye we have in a Reverend Author, lately brought over from Hanover, viz. About Building a Popish Church there: this I take to be one of thole Tales, which tho' it were true in Fact, may be a Lye in Design, being Calculated to suggest, That the Family of Hanover are not such Zealous Protestants as we think they are; but of this I shall speak by itself.

Thus we are amus'd with Shams on every Hand, and the Trade of Coining Lyes is come up to such a height, that it is amazing to me how it should so equally affect both Sides; I suppose the Gentleman above noted,

noted, comes into this Account, and receives with due Reverence, the History of Tory Lying ; but if he would find out a Way to put a Stop to the other Side too, that the Whig, who us'd formerly to keep to Truth, and scorn the vile Method of Forgery and Sham to support them, may return to that happy Temper ; if this, Sir, could be brought to pass. — What applause should you merit ? — *C eris mibi magnus Apollo.*

Certainly the hot Gentlemen among the *Whigs*, have a worse Cause to carry on now than they had formerly — The Causē of Liberty and Religion, which was always the Foundation of Whiggish Principles, substited on its own Merit, scorn'd any Assistance from Forgery and Fiction; as it was founded on Truth, so it was handed on by Sincerity ; Uprightness and Integrity preserv'd it, and under this Banner it overcame at last ; there was no betraying of Friends to carry on a Party, or Leaguing with profess'd Enemies to support private Designs : What can be the Case now ? the Causē of the Whig is not worse now than it was then, and the Men of Sense among them stand fast to that first Principle : But we have new People come in, and new Designs in View ; a New Party, who would be called *Whig*, who would Tack their Party Projects to the true Interest, and cover their Craft, by the Reputation of the Ancient Name of *Whigs*— These have too much prevail'd, and to support this, the Refuge of Lies is made use of, to carry on this, Enemies are brought in, Friends betray'd, *Dissenters* bought and sold, Truth Sacrifiz'd, and Principle Prostituted : No wonder there are lies on both Sides now — How is the Venerable Name of *Whig* Tack'd to these Politicians, who to carry on their Party Designs, will join with any Body to carry their Cause ? And we have seen them do so ; it was but the Edition before the last, that these very *Whigs* join'd with the *Jacobites* against the Duke of *Marlborough* and the late Lord Treasurer, and Printed all the Scurrilous Things of them they could Invent ; it is but a new Trial of the same Spirit, when now they join'd with their former Enemies against the *Dissenters* — Are these *Whigs* ? Are these the Men by

which our Deliverance must come ? *Vide an hoc sit Tunica Filii tui !*

It is not from the *Whigs*, but from the Party that have shelter'd under their Name ; and who will, if Heaven prevent it not, Ruin them, that all the Lyes and Shams on that Side are Coin'd, and it is to these I point, when I detect them ; I hope for the Day still, when the Ancient Principles of Liberty, Truth, Peace, and Moderation, which were Characteristick Principles of a Whig, shall appear again, and the People that profess them, abhor Lyes and Forgeries, Slander and Reproach.

To the Author of the Review.

SIR,

WHEN I saw the Treatment you had receiv'd from the *Medley*, in 2 or 3 late Papers, I thought fit to Advertise you for your Government, That the Writer of the first *Medley* was a Gentleman, and as may be seen by his Paper, which is Valued even by those *Tories* who have Learning and Parts ; the Author of the Second *Medley* also is a Gentleman and a Man of Modesty and Letters, tho', like *David's Second Row of Worthies*, he does not come up to the first : This second Author being ill-Treated by the People, who for Gain carried on the Paper, parted from them, and carryed on his Paper at his own Charge and Hazard, and remov'd it from the former Publisher's, to Mr. *Baker*, where he carried it on with the same Learning and Force as before, which the *Tories* have been very sensibly touch'd at : The People seeing this, have found out this Hireling to carry on a Sham *Medley*, merely for their Gain, as before : This Scandalous Fellow can find no better Way to make his Paper be known, than by falling upon you, and for that Reason you ought to despise the Scoundrel, who when he says you have had Money for Writing *Reviews*. (tho' he does not tell us from whom) at the same time every one may know that he is hir'd to write his Paper, purely to get a Peny : God deliver you, Sir, who have formerly, even by these very People, been acknowledg'd to have done a great deal of Good ; I say God deliver you from their Rage, for I think they hate you without a Cause.

Yours Unknown, G. D.